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Teenage kicks?

*Or, when to worry about
teenage alcohol/drug use
and crime*

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TEENAGE KICKS

THE DIFFERENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF DRUG USE,
DRUNKENNESS, AND CRIMINAL BEHAVIOUR
IN EARLY TO MID-ADOLESCENCE

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City Council

Safety first!

**Watch your
children.**

**Keep them close
by at all times.**

*Unless you have unresolved trauma then let them
run free with the animals and discover nature...
This sign is pointless fear mongery...*

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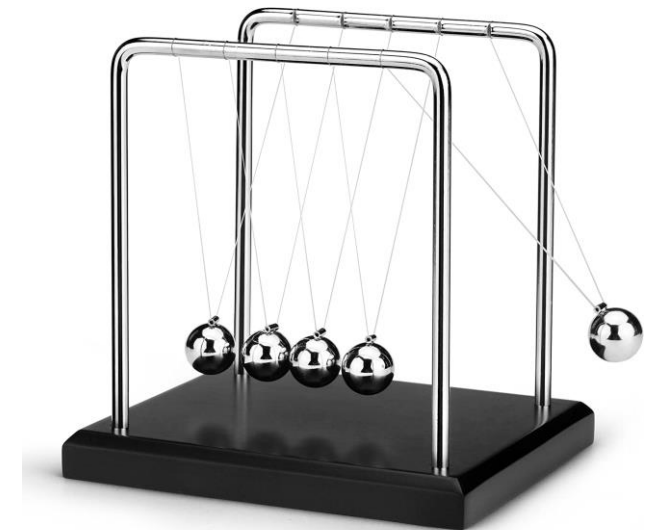


Conceptualisations of "risk" are key for the design of prevention policy and methods



Prevention research and risk theories

- "The black hole of prevention research"
- General deviance (Jessor, 1991), Social Development Model (SDM) (Catalano & Hawkins, 1996)
- Empirical limitations with the old canon:
 - Between-person correlations
 - Unidimensional designs
 - Homogenising measures/analysis
- A need for new theories (SBU, 2015; Turner 2022)
 - Simplistic key concepts
 - Lack of dynamism





Different risk groups, different explanations? (Turner et al., 2020)

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Addictive Behaviors

Available online 19 November 2019, 106145

In Press, Journal Pre-proof



Explaining trajectories of adolescent drunkenness, drug use, and criminality: a latent transition analysis with socio-ecological covariates

Russell Turner  , Kristian Daneback, Anette Skårner

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<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.addbeh.2019.106145>

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Highlights

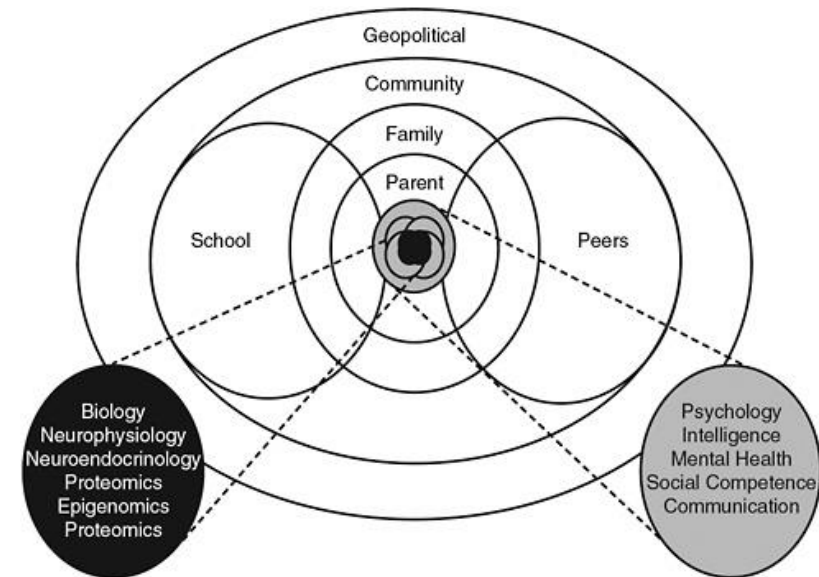
- There are different trajectories in adolescent substance use and criminal behaviour.
- Trajectories are largely stable in early to mid-adolescence.
- The different trajectories are likely to have different causal mechanisms.
- Family cohesion and criminal peers was linked to an entrenched group.
- Implications for theory, policy and practice are discussed.



LORDIA

Longitudinal Research on Development in Adolescence

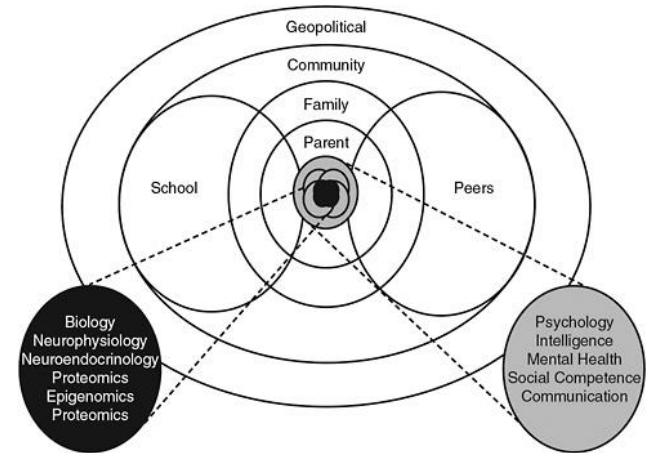
- Multidisciplinary research programme in Sweden: Jönköping and Gothenburg Universities
- Longitudinal, prospective, general population cohort study (age 13-18)
- Approx. 1500 participants (wave 1)
- Broad measurement of socio-ecological factors





Method

- Three outcome behaviours: drug use, drunkenness, and crime
- ‘Candidate’ risk factors from three domains:
 - Family (cohesion, perceived SES)
 - Friends (perceived engagement)
 - Personality (novelty-seeking and harm avoidance)
- Three waves of data: age 13, 14, 15
- Latent class and transition analysis with posthoc multinomial regressions





Capturing heterogeneity: Four main statuses

Four-status model of drunkenness, drug use and criminality across grades 7–9, with time affecting transitions between statuses.

Status label	Abstainers	Occasional law-breakers	Dabblers	Regular-all
Baseline prevalence	79.6%	9.7%	9.1%	1.6%
Item response probabilities:				
<i>Drunkenness</i>				
None	0.99	0.89	0.26	0.08
Infrequent	0.01	0.09	0.28	0.2
Frequent	< 0.01	0.02	0.46	0.72
<i>Drug use</i>				
None	0.99	0.99	0.82	0.21
Infrequent	0.01	0.01	0.1	0.14
Frequent	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.65
<i>Criminality</i>				
None	0.95	0.06	0.54	0.00
Infrequent	0.05	0.93	0.46	0.16
Frequent	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.84



Capturing development: transitions between statuses

Transitions to age ...	from ...	Abstainers	Occasional Law-Breakers (OLB)	Dabblers	Regular-All
	Age 13				
14	Abstainer	0.90	0.05	0.04	0.01
14	OLB	0.05	0.82	0.09	0.04
14	Dabblers	0.02	0.005	0.97	0.005
14	Regular-all	0.01	0.005	0.005	0.98
	Age 14				
15	Abstainer	0.83	0.04	0.13	0.00
15	OLB	0.15	0.48	0.25	0.12
15	Dabblers	0.005	0.005	0.98	0.01
15	Regular-all	0.005	0.005	0.18	0.81



Different risk groups, different socio-ecological contexts

- Occasional Law-breakers
 - Male, higher novelty-seeking and harm avoidance, slightly lower family cohesion, and higher numbers of friends who commit crime
- Dabblers
 - No gender effect, novelty-seeking but not harm avoidance, family cohesion slightly lower, more friends who use drugs
- Regular-All
 - Males, higher novelty-seeking, much lower family cohesion, lower perceived family SES, higher levels of friends with all three behaviours.



When to worry, about whom, and in which contexts?

- Differential clustering and development –
 - "Risk behaviour" as a generic term is unhelpful
- Developmental change is different for behavioural clusters
- Different socio-ecological contexts that may explain differential development
 - Dabblers tend not to escalate, family environment may be an important protective factor
 - Occasional law-breakers – half should "mature out" by age 15, but criminal peers may affect development
 - Regular-All – multiple needs requiring complex approaches e.g. multi-systemic interventions



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THANKS FOR LISTENING!

[Link to my PhD thesis](#)

[Or email me:](#)

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